



Special Release

(English Edition)

August 28, 1971

LATEST RAID BRINGS TO SIX THE TOTAL OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT
DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY

The raid at Echague two days ago brought to a total of six the number of enemy military aircraft destroyed or damaged by the heroic fighters of the New People's Army. This operation also marked our very first destruction of an enemy reconnaissance plane.

It will be recalled that prior to this the NPA brought down or destroyed three enemy helicopters. The first helicopter was hit and damaged by our Red fighters during the latter part of July 1970 at Sitio Bayabas, Bo. San Miguel, Tarlac, Tarlac. The second was brought down and destroyed in the Zambales mountains in the course of a "search and destroy" operation launched by the enemy, and was the very first helicopter brought down by the NPA. The third was hit and damaged by fighters of the NPA while this was on a reconnaissance mission in Villa Concepcion a few days before the NPA attack on the Echague enemy advanced command post.

The heroic fighters of the NPA also destroyed the communications equipment at the command post. Manila newspapers reported that the two helicopters were valued at P6 million.

The operation launched by the NPA to destroy the advanced command post at Echague, Isabela is a concrete application of the policy of "tactical offensive within the strategic defensive" in the countryside. It has brilliantly shown the skill and bravery of fighters of the NPA under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In addition to those that have been mentioned, the heroic Muslim fighters of Cotabato have also dealt the reactionary armed forces deadly blows by bringing down two helicopters early this month. The Red fighters have vowed to bring down many more helicopters in the spirit of "learning from and emulating" the heroic fraternal fighters of Mindanao.

To save itself from embarrassment as a result of the successful raid on the AFP advanced command post at Echague, Isabela, AFP military authorities immediately dispatched the news that the NPA commando team destroyed only two helicopters. They purposely did not report the destruction of the reconnaissance plane. They also reported that only one officer had been "seriously wounded", but the truth, as Pulang Bandila reports, is that the heroic NPA commando team killed off a weapons-carrier-full and a guardhouse-full of reactionary troops aside from killing a lieutenant and a private and seriously wounding 20 more inside the camp.

Not content with their brazen lying, the reactionary military authorities immediately rounded up innocent peasants and other civilians and extorted forced confessions of alleged names of the NPA commanders who led the raid on the advanced command post. This move of the reactionary authorities have only further incensed the people in the locality.

At present, the fighters of the NPA in the different regions, especially Central Luzon and Northern Luzon are engaged in revolutionary competition in destroying enemy troops and shooting down enemy military aircraft. At so early a stage of people's war conducted by the New People's Army under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the much-vaunted air power of U.S. imperialism and its local puppets is being rendered inutile by close fighting and groundfire.

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NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY DESTROYS ADVANCED COMMAND POST OF THE REACTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Pulang Bandila, organ of the New People's Army, issued two days ago (August 26) a special report on the successful attack on the advanced command post of the reactionary armed forces of the Philippines. Here is the special report:

The New People's Army successfully raided and completely destroyed the advanced command post of the reactionary armed forces in Echague, Isabela, where more than 3,500 reactionary enemy troops belonging to the Tabak Division, Task Force Lawin and the 511th PC Company are concentrated and desperately attempting to capture and annihilate the Red fighters in the whole of Northern Luzon.

Early this morning (1:00 a.m., August 26), the Red fighters skillfully raided the reactionary army camp. Inside the camp, more than 200 officers and men of the reactionary armed forces were sleeping soundly and resting after a large-scale military operation in Nueva Vizcaya. Outside the camp were two helicopters and a reconnaissance plane which the enemy used in "search and destroy" missions against the New People's Army.

Moving cautiously and skillfully, the Red soldiers were able to approach the camp and guardhouse at a distance of less than 30 meters. The Red fighters immediately opened fire at the enemy guardhouse and a weapons carrier full of troops which had just arrived from patrol duty. The guardhouse and weapons carrier were immediately destroyed and all the troops in the weapons carrier were killed at the initial burst of fire. The Red fighters simultaneously opened intense fire at the enemy camp and smashed the two helicopters and the reconnaissance plane ~~plane~~ of the enemy outside the camp by means of a grenade launcher. A lieutenant and a private were instantly killed and 20 reactionary troops were seriously wounded inside the camp. The two helicopters and the reconnaissance plane of the enemy were reduced to heaps of scrap iron.

The New People's Army has once more proven its skill in fighting and annihilating reactionary enemy troops in quick-decision military attacks by ~~means of~~ smashing the advanced command post in a matter of fifteen minutes and with only a few troops and small amount of ammunitions. Caught flat-footed and cowering in fear, the reactionary enemy troops were not able to fire a single shot. The deadly blows delivered by the New People's Army in annihilating a large number of enemy troops and in completely destroying the two helicopters and the reconnaissance plane proved the skill in planning and disciplined performance of tasks by each Red soldier from the start up to the completion of the operation. Not a single soldier of the New People's Army was wounded. Everyone skillfully withdrew and the enemy was left groping in the dark.

The dialectical development of the capability of the New People's Army from being able to annihilate few and isolated enemy forces to being able to annihilate whole squads and destroy fairly big enemy camps are proofs of its adherence to the wise leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The successful bit-by-bit annihilation of the strength of the reactionary armed forces is the result of firm unity with and mobilization of the people who fully support and actively participate in the armed struggle. It is also the result of the high quality of the Red fighters: high political consciousness, high morale and fighting will, and conscious discipline.

The series of victories won by the New People's Army help in strengthening the morale and in increasing the confidence of the people in their army. The New People's Army, as the main weapon of the Communist Party of the Philippines in seizing political power, is persisting arduously to raise the level of armed struggle to a new high.

The continuous increase of Party cadres in the New People's Army ensures the emergence of large combat forces and more fields of combat. The improvement in the quality of the Red fighters ensures the annihilation of the reactionary armed forces in the countryside, ensures the victory of the people's war to liberate the Filipino people and contribute their share in the worldwide struggle against U.S. imperialism and all its running dogs.

Down with U.S. imperialism!

Down with the landlord-bureaucrat capitalists!

Advance the armed struggle!

Long live national democracy!

Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines!

Long live the New People's Army!

-- Pulang Bandila, August 26, 1971

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QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO

Without a people's army the people have nothing.

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This army is powerful because all its members have a conscious discipline; they have come together and they fight not for the private interests of a few individuals or a narrow clique, but for the interests of the broad masses and of the whole nation. The sole purpose of this army is to stand firmly with the people and to serve them wholeheartedly.

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